(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider these proposals;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) The Central Government does not propose to set up new iron and steel units. Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991 iron and steel has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector, and also exempted from the requirements of compulsory licensing except for certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up iron and steel units, and it is upto individual entrepreneurs to pursue their projects. However, according to information available at present M/s. Mukand Limited and M/s. S.M. Iron and Steel Industries Limited have indicated interest in setting up a steel plant each in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh.

Appointment of Director to the Board of NMDC

2564. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PESB has finalised a panel of selected candidate for appointment of Director on the board of NMDC Limited during the past three years;

(b) whether the pending enquiries against some canditates for various charges have been overlooked;

(c) whether Government are still hesitating to cancel the panel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) finalised a panel in June, 1994 for filling up a vacancy of Director (Production) on the Board of Directors of National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC).

(b) There are no pending enquiries against any of the empanelled candidates and all are clear from the vigilance angle.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration for cancellation of the panel.

Privatisation of Bailadila Iron Ore Project in Madhya Pradesh

2565. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the 11-B mine of Bailadila iron ore project in Bastar district (MP) under NMDC is proposed to be handed over to some Private Agency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The iron ore available at Bailadila Iron Ore Deposit 11-B is reportedly best suited for production of sponge iron in gas-based plants. It is therefore proposed to take up development of Deposit 11-B as a joint venture of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), with one of the private sector entrepreneurs who are operating or setting up a gas-based sponge iron plant in the country and who already have an assurance from NMDC to meet a substantial part of the plant's requirement of iron ore.

बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के नवीकरण के लिए ठेका

2566. श्री जनार्दन यादव: क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के नवीकरण हेतु 1,600 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि स्वीकृत की गई है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के नवीकरण का ठेका आस्ट्रेलिया की एक कंपनी को दिया गया है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन ने भी अपनी निविदा प्रस्तुत की थी और उसकी निविदा-दर सबसे कम थी; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन को ठेका न दिए जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव): (क) 1625.79 करोड़ रुपए की अनुमानित लागत पर

बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के आधुनिकीकरण के चरण-I से संबंधित "सेल" के प्रस्ताव को सरकार ने 23.7.93 को मंजूरी प्रदान कर दी है।

(ख) इस्पात प्रगलनशाला-II में सतत ढलाई विभाग के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पैकेज का अनुबंध मैसर्स वोइस्ट अल्पाइन को दिया गया है जो भारतीय सहयोगियों की सहयोगी आस्ट्रियन कम्पनी है।

(ग) और (घ) मैसर्स हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन (एच.ई.सी.) ने मैसर्स एस.एम.एस. स्कोलेमेन सीमैग, जर्मनी और भारतीय सहयोगियों के सहयोग से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पैकेज अर्थात् इस्पात प्रगलनशाला-II में सतत ढलाई के लिए अपनी निविदा प्रस्तुत की थी। उनकी पेशकश को उच्च पाया गया। अतः उन्हें अनुबंध नहीं दिया गया।

Cost of Production of Sponge Iron

2567. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production of sponge iron with present duty structure is very high;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to compare our production cost with the production costs in other countries;

(c) if so, what are the results of such studies and what further action has been taken in the matter in the light of these studies;

(d) whether various suggestions of the manufacturers regarding reduction of customs duty on iron ore pellets and non-coking coal have been received by Government; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the different suggestions and what action has been taken on such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Sponge iron manufacturing units are primarily in the private sector. It has been reported that the domestic sponge iron industry almost entirely uses indigenous and not imported raw materials for production of sponge iron.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) to (e) The Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association (SIMA) have been representing for reduction of customs duty on iron ore, iron ore pellets and on non coking coal. The Budget for 1994-95 had inter-alia reduced customs duty on iron ore pellets from 15% to 10% and on non-coking coal from 85% to 35%. Customs duty on iron ore pellets had further been reduced to 5% from 26.4.94. Further requests made by SIMA are under examination.

Amount Spent on Advertisement

2568. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state that the details of the total amount spent by his Ministry on advertisement given direct or through DAVP etc. during the period 1992-93 and 1993-94 language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): No advertisement was issued directly by Ministry of Steel during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

The details of the total expenditure incurred on advertisement by the Ministry of Steel through DAVP during these years are given below:—

(Rupees)

Sl.No.	Language	Amount Committed
	1992-93	
1.	English	29993.00
2.	Hindi	17868.00
	Total:	47861.00
	1993-94	
1.	English	2833.00
2.	Hindi	527.00
	Total:	3360.00

Payment against the above commitments would be released by the Ministry of Steel on receipt of bills from DAVP.

अनुषंगी इस्पात उत्पादक-एककों का उत्पादन

2569. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में अनुषंगी इस्पात उत्पादक एककों के उत्पादन में गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारी कमी आई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्रमशः 1990-91 और 1993-94 के दौरान इस क्षेत्र के एककों द्वारा किए गए उत्पादन का ब्यौरा क्या है;